

1/7/02
Frequently Used Terms

Child & Family Team (CFT)—A group of selected people that meet with a child and family to set goals and develop a strengths-based plan of action to meet those goals. A typical CFT includes the family, members of the family's support system, professionals, and community members. Children who are old enough to attend meetings and understand or participate (even if only on a limited basis) are included on the team. The family selects the team members, with the help of the CFT facilitator. (Note: When a child is in the legal custody of the State, the State's caseworker also helps select the team members).

Child & Family Team Facilitator—The person who helps the family organize and carry out the family team process, including assembling the family team, discovering family strengths and culture, facilitating Child and Family Team meetings, and follows up to ensure the Team Members fulfill of the Child and Family Team Plan.

Family Mentor—An individual who has experience successfully navigating and accessing the children's social service delivery system for his/her child, a foster or adoptive child, or another family member, and is willing to share knowledge, skills, experiences, resources, time and support with the child and/or family.

Formal Supports— Services that are provided to the child or family by a person who is a paid professional.

Informal Supports— People or services that are provided to the family by a person who is not a paid professional, such as family, friends or volunteers.

Strengths-based—An approach used by the Child and Family Team where all plans for action are derived from the strengths of the child, family, team members, and community. This approach is the opposite of deficit-based planning.

Flex Funds— Money used for either one time or occasional services and/or goods, which are provided to persons and their families in order to supplement and enhance covered behavioral health services being provided and to support the person's service planning goals. After exhausting all other funding options, approval of flex funds are permitted.

Coach—A person who helps a Child and Family Team Facilitator refine his or her skills in leading the Child and Family Team.

Wraparound: A process often used by Child and Family teams where the team members and community of the child and family "wrap" their support around the family to help them accomplish their goals by building on their strengths. The key characteristics of the process are that the plan is developed by a family centered team, is individualized based on the strengths and culture of the youth and family, and is needs-driven rather than services-driven. The wraparound process is usually used to support children and youth with complex needs and their families.

Child and Family Team Plan: A collection of documents generated from the Child and Family Team process, including a Family Strengths and Culture Discovery, plan summaries from each Child and Family Team meeting, a crisis plan, and a safety plan.